CITY MATTERS.

For eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., Room 23, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., January 26, 1876.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	Wind. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A. M..	30.317	25	92	N. W.	Fresh.	Cloudy
2 P. M..	30.171	36	59	S. W.	Fresh.	Clear.
9 P. M..	30.279	31	79	S. E.	Gentle.	Clear.

Mean barometer... 30.089. Highest thermom.... 38
Mean thermom... 30.3. Lowest thermom.... 25

Pittsburgh Female College.

Next term commences February 4th. Send for catalogue to Rev. J. C. Pershing, D. D., Pittsburgh, Pa.

N. O. Molasses.

The present low price is causing an unprecedented consumption of these goods. Being made directly from cane grown on the rich soil of Louisiana, free from acids often used in the manufacture of syrup, they are healthful and pleasant. We notice on Liberty street our friends Allen Kirkpatrick & Co. are receiving and shipping large quantities.

Mass Meeting of Laborers.

Hand bills were circulated yesterday, calling a mass meeting in the Academy of Music, this evening. Speakers from New York and Philadelphia are promised, and it is said "a Labor Platform will be adopted." The cry is "Rally to the Standard of Labor," and "snatch the government out of the hands of the rings and politicians."

Christian Association Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Woman's Christian Association of Pittsburgh and Allegheny will be held on Thursday, January 27, at ten o'clock in the morning, at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association. Rev. Mr. Riley will be present and give an account of the great work now in progress in Mexico, owing to the introduction of the Bible in the Spanish language. All are invited.

The Humane Society.

The Executive Committee of the Humane Society met yesterday afternoon, Mr. Colton in the chair.

Mr. Street reported numerous cases of cruelty being acted upon and many complaints daily.

Mrs. Wilson McCandless was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Executive Committee.

After the transaction of some business not of public importance, adjourned.

Rumored Change of Chief of Police.

It is rumored that Mr. James McCandless will soon retire from the position of Chief of Police and that Roger O'Mara will be appointed to the position. No special reasons are given, and at this writing we are unable to obtain definite information as to the truth of the rumor. Mr. McCandless has occupied the position since the beginning of the present term of Mayor McCarthy. He is a very trusty worthy and conscientious gentleman, but was without experience worth speaking of when appointed. Mr. O'Mara has had considerable experience, having been actively engaged on the city police force for a number of years, and during the past eight months past on the detective force, where he has shown himself one of the most active and successful of that body.

Fatal Accident—Boy Killed.

A sad accident occurred yesterday morning on the Virginia and Charleston Railroad, near the city Poor Farm. Charles Cannon, a boy aged fourteen years, was instantly killed by being run over. He was subject to epileptic fits and had been placed by his parents, at at their expense, at the farm for care and treatment. It is supposed that having walked upon the track he was taken with a fit. His body was found on the track about seven o'clock, with the skull fractured and the face cut considerably. The body was lying between two ties, and it is supposed that he was seized with an epileptic fit at the time of his death. It was not mutilated at all, the only part that was touched being the head, which was struck by the projecting under-cross of the cars. The body will be brought down and taken to the residence of the child's father, Mr. John Cannon, on Forty-fifth street. An inquest will be held today.

At the Head of Navigation

The people of Fairmont, West Virginia, had a grand jollification, on Tuesday, on the occasion of the arrival at that port of the steamer "Elector," from this city. The boys had "a high old time," and kept up the enthusiasm nearly all night. At seven o'clock next morning (says the narrative) they all had recovered sufficiently to assemble on the boat amid the deafening cheers from those on the banks. The Captain took them all a ride up the Monongahela river about a mile. The Morgantown brass band accompanied the excursion, also persons from different points along the river. The officers of the boat were paid one hundred dollars by the Morgantown excursionists, and a purse of fifty dollars was given them by Fairmont. At nine o'clock the banks of the river were black with people. The bell rang and the whistle blew, the band played an enlivening air. The monster sidewheel "Elector" backed out in the channel, and amid the tremendous noise passed from view around the bend of the river.

City Surveys.

The Survey Committee met yesterday afternoon.

The ordinance establishing the grade of north curb of Denny street was affirmatively recommended.

The vacating of Collins avenue from Stanton avenue to Graff street was similarly acted upon.

The ordinance changing the line of Hebeton, from Stanton avenue to Graff street, was laid over.

The following ordinances were affirmatively recommended: Authorizing the assessment of damages for the opening of Liberty avenue from Thirty-third street to Center avenue; locating Grand avenue; locating Center avenue from Pearl street to Winebiddle street; locating Hoffman street from Grand avenue to Garden street; locating Mayer avenue Thirty-second ward; locating Harrison street, between Fifteenth and Fifty-third street.

Mr. Rahauser, from the sub-committee, reported an estimate for the ensuing year to the amount of $10,000, which was approved.

Adjourned.

The Miners' Strike on the Pan Handle.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Mansfield Coal and Coke Company, held yesterday in this city, it was reported by the Manager that there had been four strikes among the miners during the past year, involving a loss of sixty days' time, and that the last strike, which began about the 10th of December, is still unsettled, the miners demanding three cents a bushel, while the officers of the company feel that they can afford but two and a half cents, the price paid during the past year. It appears that some thirty or forty of the miners are not only willing but anxious to resume work at two and a half cents, but fear for the lives of themselves and families in consequence of threats made by some of the "strikers," induces them to remain idle rather than risk the consequences threatened.

In view of these facts the stockholders of the company unanimously

Resolved, That the action of the Board of Directors in declining to advance the price of mining until the price obtainable for coal warrants an advance, meets with the approval of the stockholders. S.

Dr. Hopkins Under Bonds.

The latest criticism of the course of Dr. Hopkins, on the Sabbath question, is from the pen of the venerable Dr. David McKinney in this week's *Banner*. The Doctor takes the ground that if the Auburn Professor had been *outside* the Christian church, his paper on the Sabbath need not have been noticed; but when it was read under the implied patronage of a Christian assembly, by a Presbyterian minister, Christians, and especially those of the Presbyterian family, were called upon to repudiate it. We quote one paragraph:

"Dr. Hopkins, in his open letters to the daily papers, claims entire liberty. He may think and speak as he deems to be right. This is quite plausible. And there is some truth in it. But it is not the whole truth. Dr. Hopkins is under bonds. 'Tis no new thing for men to say: 'Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?' But Christians forget themselves when *they* so talk. A man, in joining a church, parts with a portion of his liberty. He binds himself, to a certain extent, to think and speak and act as his brethren do. What church think that this bond comprehends is usually written, and the writing is called a Symbol, Discipline, Creed or Confession of Faith. By the creed, the authorized teachers in the church are especially bound; and while they are not always and rigorously pressed to teach everything which it may contain, they are expected in common honesty and good faith, not to teach anything tending to its subversion. Now, Dr. Hopkins had joined a church—the Presbyterian church. This he did voluntarily. And he abides in it voluntarily. He is hence under bonds. And from these bonds he may not be released in any way but by leaving that church."

The "bonds" to which the learned Doctor alludes are specifically quoted—being the ordination vow, and the solemn obligation to which he subscribed when he became a professor of theology. These bind him while he remains in the Presbyterian church, and he can only be released from them, to use a common phrase, "by stepping down and out."

To-Day is the day of prayer for schools and colleges, and for the youth of the church.

THE BOYS IN BLUE.

Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic—Large Attendance—Address of Department Commander Tyson—Reports—Election of Officers—Reunion at the Academy of Music—Banquet at the Union Depot Hotel.

The ninth annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Pennsylvania, in this city, yesterday, brought together a large number of comrades from every section of the State. Up to noon yesterday delegates representing seventy Posts had arrived. These were met at the depots by the Reception Committee and escorted to comfortable quarters.

BUSINESS MEETING.

The encampment held a business meeting in the Academy of Music at twelve o'clock yesterday, with Department Commander W. W. Tyson in the chair.

After prayer by Chaplain John Sayers, the roll was called by Adjutant General N. M. Smith, which showed that there were one hundred and nine delegates present, representing seventy Posts.

The following Committee on Credentials was appointed: Norman M. Smith, J. E. Milliken, E. Branson, G. Bosbyshell and W. J. Hacks.

The credentials of delegates having been duly inspected, the nomination for Department officers was made.

ADDRESS OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.

Department Commander Tyson addressed the Encampment, as follows:

COMRADES: We have again assembled as the officers and delegates of the Department of Pennsylvania, for the transaction of business having reference to the management of the affairs of our order. I cordially greet you, and may your deliberations be marked by that spirit of fraternity and charity that characterises our Grand Army.

The reports of the staff officers will show the work in detail during the year.

The following new Posts were mustered by Senior Vice Commander Givin: 18, 21, 55 and 56.

Comrade Storrie, 35; Adjutant General Beatty, 48; Comrade Nash, 44; Comrade Beise, 148, and *Post* 100, at New Castle, and 10, at Gettysburg, Indiana county, by myself.

The financial condition of the department, although not all we could wish, is nevertheless in an improved condition, and or the first time in five years out of debt, with a balance over all liabilities of $155 14.

Notwithstanding the fact that one large Post surrendered its charter, and a few other Posts cut off a large lot of dead wood they had been carrying for some time, the department has gained during the year and we have entered upon the Centennial year with such encouragement as leads us to hope and work for a larger increase in our membership than we have ever known. Among the gratifying evidences of a higher appreciation of our order by these outside, I would refer to the fact that the defenders of the Union, is this: There was a time when we, to secure recruits, had to go to these old comrades in arms, and urge them to join us. We met with a number of objections. Now we find they come to us, and ask how can I join the Grand Army. We are thoroughly satisfied that the order is just what it claims to be; our fraternity and charity is broad and deep, and the influence of the social element, wherever we followed, is also loyal to each other, and they realize another fact, that all but the soldier forgets the soldier's record, his patriotism, his loyalness. Another cause for congratulation is the number of Posts that have been reorganized. We also see some evidence of the gradual obliteration of the old lines, and our organizations into our ranks. Many of these men see and feel the necessity of a national organization like ours. Our fraternity, like that of the Grand Army is all without regard to rank, nationality, sect or party, and the liberal charity bestowed on the disabled comrade and the families of deceased comrades, will open for us a recognition second to no society in the land.

The Commander respectfully submitted his annual report of the Decoration ceremonies of the present year, to be incorporated in the published proceedings of the Department.

The Soldiers' Orphans' schools throughout the State are reported in a satisfactory condition. The Commander expresses the hope that "the Legislature will, by making a suitable appropriation, enable Professor Wickersham to carry out his desire to take all the children in the schools to Philadelphia during the Centennial. Certainly the State could not be more fittingly and than to provide that her Soldiers' Orphans' schools should have a place in the Educational Department at the Centennial."

THE CENTENNIAL.

The Commander-in-Chief has designated the 28th of June as the day upon which the National Encampment will meet in Philadelphia, and your attention is invited to the consideration of the arrangements for the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of our nation's birth, and to the proposed reunion of all departments of the Grand Army at that time. To no organization in our country is this Centennial so dear as to ours. The noble, patriotic people of the whole country, with one desire to keep alive any ill feeling engendered by the war, remembering that but for the patriotic, brave men of the nation, who, unused to the trade of arms, went forth to battle for national integrity and independence, with hearts beating time to the music of the Union, and full to overflowing with thankfulness and gratitude, will shower such honors on you as the representatives of the living and dead heroes of the army that saved the nation, as no other society or organization will receive. The committee authorized by semi-annual encampment consisting of one comrade from each Philadelphia Post, to make arrangements for the reception and comfort of comrades of our own and other departments will submit a report of their labors to this Encampment, and while there was no provision for the continuance of the committee beyond the meeting of this Encampment, I would recommend that they be continued until the work is completed. The fact that the Centennial is to be held in our own State should incite in the hearts of all comrades an earnest desire and fresh zeal to places the department in the best possible condition. It is expected that very large delegations from other departments will be present and take part in the parade and reunion, and although our comrades in Philadelphia will do all they can to make the stay of our visiting comrades a very pleasant one, we must not forget that they will be the guests of the State and that it is plainly our duty to aid the comrades of Philadelphia by all the means in our power.

I am fully satisfied that our members can be doubled by that time, if the comrades will go to work in earnest. Let there be more individual effort. Post commanders should make a special appeal to each member of their posts, and impress upon each one, as a duty they owe the whole order, to present a new name each month before the National Encampment.

Commander Tyson, after referring to the good work of the Order in the way of relieving the wants of disabled and needy comrades and widows and orphans, continues as follows:

Among our comrades who have gone to join the Grand Army of the Dead during the past year is Comrade James Hasler, Commander of Post No. 1, who died on the 22d of November last. Those of you who attended the last annual encampment will remember his genial face. He was devoted to the Grand Army, and in his death our Order has lost a true comrade and faithful worker. May his memory be ever green in our hearts,

I desire to express my thanks to the officers of the department staff for their faithful and efficient performance of duties. To Senior Vice Commander Givin for his untiring zeal and hearty co-operation. To the Assistant Adjutant General, Comrade Norman M. Smith, I am under the greatest personal obligations. To him more than to any other comrade are we indebted for the prosperous condition of the department, and I recommend and trust the Encampment will order an appropriate testimonial.

In conclusion, comrades, I desire to thank you for the honor you conferred upon me one year ago. I have, to the best of my ability, performed the duties of the office. I am fully sensible of the defects of my administration, but feel that you will do me the justice to believe that I have had the welfare of our order at heart.

I thank the comrades of the department for the fraternal spirit and good fellowship shown to me during the year.

In retiring from my official position, I return to the ranks, there, to labor with zeal in the interest of our Grand Army of the Republic, and our noble motto of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty."

ADJUTANT'S REPORT.

The report of Adjutant General N. M. Smith was read, which shows the condition of the department to be much better than heretofore, and that it is now in a most flourishing and prosperous condition. As an evidence of this he referred to the establishment of seventeen new posts during the year, with a large increase of membership in almost all of the old Posts.

Then followed the reports of Department Quartermaster Mulligan, Inspector Sorey, Medical Director, Dr. Crawford; Centennial Committee, G. Bosbyshell.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At four o'clock in the afternoon an election was held for department officers. The count was not finished last night, but sufficient progress was made to indicate the election of James W. Latta, of Philadelphia, as Department Commander, and I. B. Brown, of Corry, as Senior Vice Commander.

RECEPTION OF THE DELEGATES.

The formal reception of the delegates to the Encampment took place last evening at the Academy of Music, in presence of a large concourse of citizens, including many ladies. The meeting was called to order at eight P. M., with the following organization:

Chairman—W. W. Tyson. Vice Presidents—S. Irvin Given, Wm. H. Martin, Norman M. Smith, J. E. Milliken, D. Newlin Fell, Isaac B. Brown, A. M. Storie, Louis Wagner, Frank Reiser, A. Wilson Norris, O. S. Bosbyshell, R. B. Beath, Howard Reader. Secretaries—Reporters of the press.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

After prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. Sayers, and an inspiring air by the St. Cecelia Band, Hon. F. H. Collier was introduced and delivered an address of welcome to the delegates. He said he was proud of the honor, on behalf of the G. A. R. Posts of this vicinity, of welcoming the visiting comrades on this occasion, in the name of Pittsburgh, he cordially welcomed the representatives of the various Posts of the state. Our old, smoke-begrimed city needed no eulogy. Her record was written on the hearts of every widow and orphan in this broad land. He knew the visitors had a place in the hearts of their comrades here, for all had followed the same good old flag and battled for a common cause. He would particularly welcome the comrades on behalf of the ladies of the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, whose modesty is only equalled by their patriotism and devotion in the times of our darkest trials.

The "Soldiers' Chorus," a beautiful song, was excellently rendered by the G. A. R. Glee Club, after which a

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Was delivered by Major A. Wilson Norris. His address was a very eloquent and able one, and the speaker was frequently greeted with hearty applause. The band played "Hail Columbia," after which the orator of the occasion, Capt. C. J. Arms, was introduced, and delivered the oration.

Next after the oration was the song "Tenting To-night," which was given with fine effect by the Glee Club and St. Cecelia Band.

Colonel Realf was next introduced and delivered a poem, which was well received by the audience.

The Glee Club sang "Marching through Georgia," the large audience joining in the chorus, at the conclusion of which the band struck up the "March to the Banquet." This closed the proceedings at the Academy, and those holding tickets to the banquet formed on Liberty street and, preceded by the band, marched to the Union Depot Hotel.

THE BANQUET.

The banquet at the Union Depot Hotel was a splendid success in every sense. Some two hundred and fifty comrades were seated around the bountifully supplied tables in the spacious dining rooms, and it is scarcely necessary to say that the excellent cheer elicited the fullest appreciation of the guests.

The "signal for silence" by the drum corps, announced the banquet in readiness, and the comrades responded to the call with the same alacrity which marked like occasions on the tented field. After all were seated, Rev. John Sayers invoked a blessing, when the guests gave their undivided attention to the good things. At the conclusion of the supper the G. A. R. Hymn, beginning "Hail, Festal Day," with their accustomed power and sweetness, after which were read

THE TOASTS.

1. The Grand Army of the Republic.

Response by Comrade O. C. Bosbyshell. He said he was not called on to respond to this toast because he was more eloquent or able, but because he was an old Commander of the Order, and was supposed to know more about it than others. The G. A. R. gathers in all nationalities, sects, colors and creeds, and everybody knew something of its purposes. It is a democratic organization, all having an equal footing in it, who have an honorable discharge from the army of United States. To illustrate the spirit of fraternity existing between soldiers of the same army, the speaker told a thrilling anecdote of a sergeant who was found while carrying a canteen of water to a wounded comrade at Antietam, when the latter lay bleeding to death and to go to him was certain death.

2. The Army and Navy.

Response by Department Commander-elect, James W. Latta. The speaker said that having been elected to the highest honor within the gift of his comrades, he felt that his usual post-prandial speech would not suit his new position. He would, however, sound him a worse noise (the cocoa drives) than any he had listened to in the war, if he omitted replying anything which would be of any lasting benefit to those who were before him. This brought cheers and applause.] They expect the nations of the earth to come here—[deafening demonstration of approval.] They come to hear any revolutionary reminiscences from—[great applause.] Stories, incidences and incidents which I might—["Go on." "Go on."] Pennsylvania's name, from the banks of the Delaware to the—["Hi." "Hi!"] But perhaps I tire you—["Never," "never."] But to return to 1877—"Oh!" "Oh!" The speaker closed his eloquent speech by saying that he thought the army of the country was around him, and he invited his audience to come down to Philadelphia during the year 1876, promising forthe high encomiums he had passed upon them.

An intermission was taken at this time for a couple of songs. "Marching Through Georgia" was given with a will, and "John Brown's Body." When the stanza beginning "Well sang Joe Harris," etc., was sung the applause was deafening and long continued.

3. Appomattox.

Response by Comrade John H. Kerr. He reviewed in glowing language the surrender of Lee at Appomattox and the virtual ending of the war. He said that the Order was an object lesson to the banner which was borne to victory in the many battles which preceded that glorious occasion